

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 191611Z DEC 75
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5142
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, AO
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH AMERICAN BASED IN PORTUGAL REGARDING
POSSIBLE CONTACT WITH HEAD OF MPLA

1. FOLLOWING OFFERED FOR WHATEVER IT MAY PROVIDE IN
WAY OF NEW INFORMATION OR CONTRIBUTION TO EVOLVING ANGOLAN
SITUATION.
2. AMBASSADOR BENNETT RECEIVED VISIT DECEMBER 18 FROM
DAVID ROBERTS, FORMER HEAD OF MOBIL OIL IN PORTUGAL AND
STILL RESIDING LISBON AS CONSULTANT TO VARIOUS CONCERNS,
INCLUDING DIAMANG ENTERPRISE WITH MAJOR DIAMOND MINING OPERATIONS
IN EASTERN ANGOLA (20,000 EMPLOYEES). ROBERTS PRESENTED FOLLOW-
ING INFORMATION AS COMING FROM PORTUGUESE HEAD OF DIAMANG,
NAME OF ABECASSIS, WHOM ROBERTS CONSIDERS RELIABLE AND
POLITICALLY COMMITTED TO WEST. ABECASSIS HAD CLOSE PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH NETO, HEAD OF MPLA, DERIVING FROM LONG-
TIME FRIENDSHIP OF HIS BROTHER DR. ABECASSIS WITH NETO
WHICH RUNS FROM SCHOOL DAYS TOGETHER.
3. ACCORDING ROBERTS DIAMANG, AFTER YEARS OF LEGEN-
DARY RICHES AND PROSPERITY, IS NOW ON THE ROPES DUE TO
REVOLUTION OF 1974 AND ITS CHAOTIC AFTERMATH ON POLICIES,
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES. ABE-
CASSIS SEES NO WAY OUT FROM CLAIMS, AWARDS AND MONETARY
OBLIGATIONS AND HAS PLEADED WITH NETO TO NATIONALIZE

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DIAMANG AND TAKE IT OVER. NETO HAD DEMURRED, INSISTING THAT HE

DOES NOT INCLUDE NATIONALIZATION IN HIS OWN ECONOMIC VIEWPOINT AND FURTHER DOES NOT DESIRE TO ALIENATE POTENTIAL FOREIGN INVESTORS IN ANGOLA BY FRIGHTENING THEM THROUGH NATIONALIZATION OF SUCH A WELL-KNOWN ENTERPRISE AND PUTTING THE STAMP ON HIS ADMINISTRATION.

4. ACCORDING TO ABECASSIS THROUGH ROBERTS, NETO IS WORRIED OVER HEAVY SOVIET EMBRACE IN WHICH HE NOW FINDS HIMSELF, AND WOULD LIKE TO ESCAPE IT. HE HAS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS LIKENED HIMSELF TO SADAT IN SAYING HE WOULD LIKE TO FIND A WAY BACK TO THE WEST. HE HAD TOLD ABECASSIS HE WOULD BE GLAD IF AN OPENING COULD BE ARRANGED UNDER WHICH HE COULD TALK WITH APPROPRIATE AMERICAN OR OTHER WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE HIS VIEW KNOWN AND TO FIND SOME WAY TO EXTRICATE HIMSELF FROM HIS SOVIET ASSOCIATION.

5. ROBERTS SAID AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI HAD BEEN AWAY BUT THAT HE HOPED TO SEE HIM TO TALK ABOUT THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE PLANS RETURN TO LISBON DECEMBER 22 BUT THEN IS SCHEDULED TO BE BACK IN NEW YORK AROUND MID-JANUARY. IF THERE IS ANY INTEREST IN ABOVE INFORMATION, ROBERTS WOULD BE GLAD AT THAT TIME TO MEET WITH USG REPRESENTATIVES IN EITHER NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS MATTERS IN MORE DETAIL. HE WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY HE CAN.
MOYNIHAN

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